

REMARKS

Claims 10, 11, 27, 32-34, 45 and 49 were objected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for lack of antecedent basis. These claims have been amended to overcome the objection. Previously presented independent claims 10, 27, 44, 62, 71 and 79 have been amended. Applicants have made amendments to various pending dependent claims and added dependent claims 88-90. No new matter has been added.

Independent claims 10, 27, 44, 62, 71 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickum (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,661) in view of Perlman (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,259). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants have reviewed the references cited by the Examiner and have amended independent claims 10, 27, 44, 62, 71 and 79 to include the limitation of biometric identification. Applicants note that the Examiner has stated that "Nickum discloses recognizing a current user with an interface in said personal remote control unit (Column 5, Lines 16-21)." The passage cited by the Examiner discloses that

[t]he code input by the user is processed by the firmware and/or circuitry embodied in micro controller 205 according to the steps outlined below (FIG. 4 and accompanying text). The user verification process checks user ids stored in EEPROM 250 for a match with the input user id. If there is no match then the default environment remains active.

FIG. 4 at reference numeral 420 of the Nickum reference discloses the following branch condition: "DOES USER ID MATCH DATA STORED IN EEPROM 250?" Additional disclosure by Nickum at col. 5, ll. 42-44 teaches only that "[i]f the id function key 320 was selected, then at decision block 414 the user verification process compares the input user id against the user ids stored in EEPROM 250." Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Nickum do not disclose the ID input device described on page 8 of the specification of the present application. The specification of the present application teaches that

The ID input 112 can comprise any number of different types of input. The user ID can be based on physical attributes of the user, such as a fingerprint scanner, a voice recognition circuit, a retinal scanning device, a snifter device, a device that recognizes faces, or any type of device that can identify a

physical or anthropometric attribute of the user of the remote control device 111.

Applicants further submit that the disclosure in Nickum of a special remote control for children (col. 4, ll. 62-65) cited by the Examiner does not teach any form of biometric identification. The disclosure of Nickum is limited to “a remote control device designed for easier use by children [that] may have larger and/or fewer keys, symbols (such as animal figures) instead of characters on the keys, and so forth.” Nothing taught in the cited passage or anywhere else in Nickum can perform biometric identification. All previously presented independent claims have been amended to include the limitation of biometric identification. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow pending independent claims 10, 27, 44, 62, 71 and 79.

With respect to the dependent claims, claims 11-15 and new claims 88 and 90 depend from independent claim 10, claims 28-34 depend from independent claim 27, claims 45-49 and new claim 89 depend from independent claim 44, claims 64-70 depend from independent claim 62, claims 72-78 depend from independent claim 71, and claims 80-87 depend from independent claim 79. The Applicants respectfully submit that they have shown the patentability of at least independent claims 10, 27, 44, 62, 71 and 79 as amended. Accordingly, all dependent claims are themselves patentable insofar as they depend from patentably distinct independent claims. The Applicants make this assertion without reference to the independent bases of patentability contained within each dependent claim. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow all pending dependent claims.

Furthermore, new dependent claims 88 and 89 both include the limitation of voice recognition. New dependent claim 90 includes the limitation of a video pointer table. Applicants note that none of the references cited by the Examiner alone or in combination disclose all of the limitations recited in new claims 88-90. Therefore, allowance of these three dependent claims is respectfully requested.

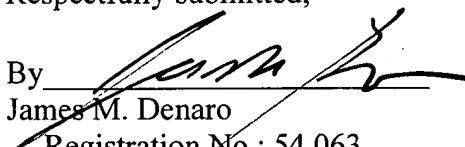
Claims 33-34, 69-70, 77-78 and 86-87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickum in view of Perlman and in further view of Agraharam (U.S. Patent No, 6,377,995). This rejection is respectfully traversed at least for the reasons given above. Claims 32, 68, 76 and 85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickum in view of Perlman and further in view of Sumita (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,207). This rejection is also respectfully traversed at least for the reasons given above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 57717-2000400.

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